

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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 SS RUQMDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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 SP RUEIVC/AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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SUBJ: AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

POL IS GOLDBERG MAY 23 PM PRESS STATEMENT AND SELECTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

THE UNITED STATES STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE REQUEST OF CANADA AND DENMARK FOR AN IMMEDIATE MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

WE HAVE BEEN CONSULTING INTENSIVELY WITH OTHER MEMBERS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS, SINCE THE CRISIS FIRST AROSE, TO DETERMINE IN WHAT WAY THE SECURITY COUNCIL COULD BEST CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE AREA. WE ENTIRELY AGREE THAT THE TIME HAS NOW COME, IN THE LIGHT OF THE GRAVITY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO DISCHARGE ITS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE CHARTER FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, IN HIS REPORT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON MAY 19, WARNED THAT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST MORE SERIOUS THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE FALL OF 1956. HE SPECIFICALLY POINTED TO STRAITS OF TIRAN AND GAZA STRIP AS MOST SENSITIVE AREAS OF TENSION. SINCE THAT REPORT AND SYG'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WOULD VISIT CAIRO, NEW DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS HAVE ACCENTUATED CRISIS EVEN FURTHER.

PRESIDENT OF U.S. MADE CLEAR IN A NATIONWIDE ADDRESS THIS AFTERNOON THAT SITUATION "IS A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY." HE STATED:

U.S. AS MEMBER OF U.N. AND AS NATION DEDICATED TO A WORLD ORDER

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State Dept. review completed

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BASED ON LAW AND MUTUAL RESPECT, HAS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN PEACE IN N.E....

U.S. IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO SUPPORT OF POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL NATIONS OF AREA. U.S. STRONGLY OPPOSES AGGRESSION BY ANYONE IN AREA, IN ANY FORM, OVER OR CLANDESTINE...

GOLDBERG

"WE CALL UPON ALL CONCERNED TO OBSERVE IN SPIRIT OF RESTRAINT THEIR SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER CHARTER OF U.N. AND THE GENERAL ARMISTICE AGREEMENTS."

IN OUR VIEW IT IS VITAL THAT SC GIVE ITS SPEEDY SUPPORT TO SYG'S EFFORTS TO PACIFY SITUATION. WE BELIEVE THE SC SHOULD EXPRESS ITS FIRM SUPPORT FOR MISSION OF SYG AND CALL UPON ALL MEMBERS TO GIVE HIM THEIR FULLEST COOPERATION; AND IN PARTICULAR TO TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO AVERT POSSIBILITY OF AN ARMED CONFLICT AND TO REFRAIN FROM ANY MEASURES WHICH WOULD ALTER THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WHICH PREVAILED WHEN THE SYG'S MISSION WAS ANNOUNCED.

SUCH ACTION BY SC WOULD REINFORCE RATHER THAN PREJUDICE THE SYG'S PEACE MISSION. AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE, IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THE SC ENSURE THAT NO MEMBER OF UN SHOULD TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD IMPERIL SUCCESS OF SYG'S MISSION.

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Q. I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE JUST BEEN TALKING WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR FEDORENKO. HAVE YOU RECEIVED A PLEDGE OF COOPERATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN A DECLARATION OF SUPPORT BY COUNCIL FOR SYG'S MISSION, WHICH I BELIEVE IS PURPOSE OF THIS SC MEETING?

A. I CANNOT SPEAK FOR AMBASSADOR OF THE SOVIET UNION.

I CAN SPEAK FOR MYSELF. IN MY TALKS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR, I EMPHASIZED THAT OBJECTIVE OF OUR COUNTRY IS TO GIVE SUPPORT TO SYG'S MISSION TO PACIFY SITUATION, TO ALLEVIATE CRISIS, TO MAKE SURE THAT REASON PREVAILS, TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS, NOT ONLY BETWEEN PARTIES INVOLVED BUT BETWEEN GREAT POWERS.

WHAT WE SEEK IS PEACE IN ME. WE SEEK TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS--

Q. SIR, CAN COUNCIL DO ANYMORE THAN GIVE GENERAL SUPPORT TO SYG'S MISSION? CAN IT TAKE A DECISION ON FUTURE OF UN FORCE?

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THE COUNCIL, ONCE IT IS SEIZED WITH MATTER, CAN TAKE ANY APPROPRIATE DECISION. WE WOULD HOPE THAT IMMEDIATE THING COUNCIL WOULD DO WOULD BE TO LEND UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF COUNCIL TO RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CONDITIONS OF PEACE AND ALLEVIATION OF TENSION IN AREA.

Q. WAS SYG CONSULTED AND DID HE APPROVE OF MEETING AT THIS TIME?

A. WE COULD NOT OBVIOUSLY CONSULT WITH HIM. WE KEPT SECRETARIAT ADVISED.

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HE HAS HIS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER CHARTER; THE SC HAS ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER CHARTER.

THE OBJECTIVE THAT WE SUPPORT IN MEETING IS TO REINFORCE SYG'S POSITION, NOT TO UNDERMINE IT OR TO PREJUDICE IT. WE SEE NO WAY IN WHICH AN APPROPRIATE MEETING OF SC, VERY SOLEMNLY DESIGNED TO HELP HIM IN WHAT HE IS ATTEMPTING TO DO, CAN IN ANY WAY PREJUDICE WHAT HE IS ATTEMPTING TO DO.

Q. IS THERE NOT A DANGER THAT TWO SIDES WILL SPEAK IN COUNCIL MEETING AND TAKE RIGID POSITIONS WHICH WILL MAKE HIS PRIVATE NEGOTIATIONS MORE DIFFICULT?

A. WE WOULD HOPE NOT, BECAUSE WE DO NOT INTEND TO DO THAT. AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT PARTIES WOULD NOT INTEND TO DO THAT.

Q. ARE COUNCIL MEMBERS BEING INFORMED SPECIFICALLY ON WHAT HE IS DOING?

A. HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ADVISED ADEQUATELY OF WHAT HE WAS DOING AS SOON AS HE IS IN A POSITION TO ADVISE US.

Q. DOES U.S. MISSION TOMORROW MORNING EXPECT TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN PRESENTING SUCH A RESOLUTION.

A. WELL, WE HAVE TWO SPONSORS WHO BROUGHT MATTER TO SC AND UNDER RULES OF COUNCIL THEY WILL PROBABLY TAKE FIRST LEAD.

Q. SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY TODAY PROPOSED AN INTERNATIONAL NAVAL FORCE, WITH COOPERATION OF UN, TO GO TO GULF OF AQABA. WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOR OF SUCH A FORCE?

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A. WELL, IMMEDIATELY WE BELIEVE THAT COUNCIL OUGHT TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO COMMON DENOMINATION OF WHAT CAN CONSTRUCTIVELY BE DONE. I DO NOT WANT TO ANTICIPATE WHAT COUNCIL MAY DECIDE.

Q. YOU HAVE EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY THAT YOU SEEK NO WAY IN WHICH THIS COULD PREJUDICE SYG'S MISSION. HAS ANYONE SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT PREJUDICE --

A. NO, NO, BUT WHEN SYG GOES AND HE IS THERE, NATURAL INQUIRY ARISES -- I MEAN, WHY SHOULD WE HAVE A MEETING? AND I THINK IT IS VERY SIMPLE WHY WE SHOULD HAVE A MEETING.

THE REASON IS TWOFOLD. FIRST, THERE HAVE BEEN VERY GRAVE DEVELOPMENTS, NOT APPARENT SINCE HE DEPARTED FROM NEW YORK. WE ALL KNOW WHAT THEY ARE. AND SECONDLY, THE SYG IS THERE AND HE IS ENTITLED IN LIGHT OF THESE GRAVE DEVELOPMENTS, IT SEEMS TO ME, THROUGH A DECLARATION BY THE COUNCIL, SAYING-MR SYG, AND ALL THE

PARTIES, THE COUNCIL IS SUPPORTING EFFORTS THAT YOU ARE MAKING IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE IN THE AREA.

Q. WOULD YOU ASSUME THAT THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER COUNCIL MEETING AFTER SYG'S RETURN, POSSIBLY TO ACT ON ANY RECOMMENDATIONS HE MAY HAVE?

A. I WOULD ASSUME SO. I WOULD ASSUME THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE ONLY MEETING OF COUNCIL THAT WE WOULD HAVE.

Q. YOU PARENTHETICALLY ALMOST STRESS IMPORTANCE NOT ONLY BETWEEN PARTIES CONCERNED BUT THAT THERE SHOULD BE HARMONY AMONG BIG POWERS. DO YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE HARMONY AMONG BIG POWERS ON THIS ISSUE?

A. IT WOULD BE OUR BIG HOPE AND OUR GREAT DESIRE THAT WE SHOULD ALL ACT IN CONCERT AT COUNCIL AND OUTSIDE OF COUNCIL IN INTERESTS OF PEOPLE IN ME.

Q. YOU SPOKE ABOUT CONFERRING WITH ALL PARTIES INVOLVED, INCLUDING UAR. COULD YOU TELL US IF YOU HAD COOPERATION FROM UAR IN THIS EFFORT TO GIVE SUPPORT TO SYG.

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A. I CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEM. I WOULD MERELY SAY THAT AS FAR AS OUR OWN COUNTRY IS CONCERNED, WE HAVE PURSUED OBJECTIVE OF TALKING TO EVERYBODY, OF MAKING CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT LINE UP ON ANY SIDE EXCEPT SIDE OF PEACE IN AREA. THAT OUR INTENTION IS APTLY EQUAL

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TO ALL, THAT OUR STATEMENTS ARE DIRECTED, AS PRESIDENT SAID, TO PROTECT THE POLITICAL AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL COUNTRIES IN ME, THAT WE HAVE NO DESIGNS UPON ANY OTHER COUNTRIES, REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGY, AND THAT ANY INTIMATIONS TO CONTRARY ARE ENTIRELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE SAID TO EVERY COUNTRY INVOLVED EQUALLY AND IN SAME CONTEXT.

Q. THE PRESIDENT THIS AFTERNOON IN EFFECT REAFFIRMED THE 1957 U.S. GUARANTEE THAT GULF OF AQABA WOULD BE INTERNATIONAL WATERS. DO WE FEEL THAT WE HAVE THE SUPPORT IN THIS OF BRITAIN AND FRANCE?

A. I WOULD ALLOW THEM TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. I THINK THAT OUR POSITION WAS STATED BY THE PRESIDENT.

Q. IN THAT SAME CONTEXT, YOU OUTLINED AS ONE OF OBJECTIVES OF MEETING A KIND OF ROLLBACK TO PRE-MONDAY POSITION, WHICH IN EFFECT MEANS A ROLLBACK OF THREAT TO BLOCKADE AQABA. DO YOU MEAN THAT YOU WANT THIS KIND OF A PASSAGE IN RES. TO WHICH YOU WOULD HOPE WOULD EMERGE FROM COUNCIL SESSION?

A. ALL WE WANT TO AVOID IS A CONFLICT IN AREA WHILE SECURITY COUNCIL AND SYG CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE, PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

Q. IN PRESSING SO URGENTLY FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL, WERE YOU MOVED BY ANY INDICATIONS THAT A CONFRONTATION WAS IMMINENT?

A. WE WERE MOVED BY ALL OF DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN REPORTED PUBLICLY BY PRESS AND WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED DIPLOMATICALLY SINCE SYG LEFT.

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